

REMARKS

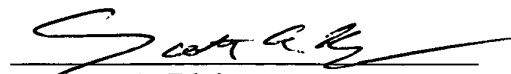
In response to the outstanding Office Action, dated May 19, 2005, Applicants submit the following remarks.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-3, 5, 10-15 and 17-20 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Application No. 2002/0162408 to Bentivoglio. Claims 4, 6-9 and 16 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but were deemed allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate allowed claim 6, and therefore is allowable. Claims 4, 7, 8, and 16 have been amended to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims, and therefore are allowable

Applicants have added new claims 21-24. New claim 21 defines the invention as a door assembly for a vehicle including an interior component defining a storage compartment having an opening. A door body is movably attached to the interior component to selectively cover the opening. An actuator is selectively coupled to the door body. The actuator is operable to enable the door body to move relative to the interior component. A field effect sensor provides an electric field such that when a stimulus interrupts the electric field the sensor senses the interruption and generates a signal. A controller receives the signal from the sensor and operates the actuator to enable the door body to move relative to the component. The cited references do not teach a field effect sensor in use with an actuator for enabling a door body to move relative to an interior component for opening a storage compartment. Thus, the invention as defined by new claim 21 is clearly patentable over the cited references.

Any fees due in connection with this Amendment should be charged to Deposit Account No. 13-0005.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Scott A. Blake", is written over a horizontal line.

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